

Applicant: Jeffrey George
Serial No.: 10/661,392
Group Art Unit: 3713

REMARKS

No new matter is added by this amendment. The present application was filed on September 12, 2003 with original claims 1-58. By this amendment claims 1 and 30 have been amended and new claims 59-62 have been added. The claims remaining in consideration are claims 1-62. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner acknowledged Applicants' claim for priority under 35 USC §119(e) to US Provisional Patent Application 60/502,179, filed September 11, 2003. However, the Examiner erroneously determined that the present invention was not supported by the provisional application. This is respectfully traversed. Independent claims 1 and 33 have been amended to more clearly identify the subject matter, applicants regard as the invention.

The present invention sets forth a remote device and a method, by which a player can be enrolled in a player tracking system. This is clearly supported and fully supported throughout the '179 Provisional Patent Application and particularly on page 1058 thereof (a copy of which is provided for the Examiner's reference). Thereof, Applicants respectfully request Examiner's acknowledgement of the priority to the '179 provisional.

Claims 1-58 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of a series of commonly owned, copending applications. This provisional rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to the use of a remote device for enrolling a player into a player tracking system. All of the claims contained in the Examiner referenced copending applications, while referring to a remote device, do in fact, relate to providing other functionality using the remote device. As none of the other copending applications are related to enrolling players in a player tracking system, applicants respectfully assert that the present claims are patentably distinct and request withdrawal of the obvious-type double patenting rejection.

Claims 1-11, 15, 26-39, 47-48, and 54-58 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,712,698 issued to Paulsen et al. Claims 12-14, 16-18, 19-25, 40-42, and 44-53 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Paulsen. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Independent claims 1 and 30 have

been amended to more clearly identify the subject matter applicants regard as the invention.

As discussed above, amended independent claim 1 sets forth a remote system for use with a gaming system. The gaming system implements a player tracking system and has least one gaming machine playable by a player and a host computer coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network. The remote system includes a remote device which is embodied in a mobile computer which may be carried by a user, such as an employee of a casino. The remote system also includes a remote network interface coupled to the remote device for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device. The data including sign-up information to enroll the player in the player tracking system.

Amended independent 30 sets forth a method for enrolling a player in a player tracking system for use with a gaming system. The gaming system includes at least one gaming machine playable by the player. The method includes the steps of providing a remote device which may be carried by a user, sending a fillable form to the remote device, and filling out the form with data, by a the user, on the remote device for enrolling the player in the player tracking system.

Paulsen discloses a game service interface for a player tracking touch screen display. The player tracking touch screen display is located on and attached to a gaming machine 90 and provides various “gaming services”, including enrolling a player in the tracking system. However, Paulsen does not disclose using a mobile device. Paulsen’s device is part of the player tracking device located and affixed to the gaming machine.

Since Paulsen does not include each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1 and 30, applicants respectfully assert that the 102(e) rejection of independent claims 1 and 30 is improper and request that it be withdrawn. Claims 2-29 and claims 31-58 are ultimately dependent upon claims 1 and 30, respectively. New claims 59-60 and 61-62 are ultimately dependent upon allowable claims 1 and 30, respectively. Therefore, for the reasons sets forth above, and based on their own merits, applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable over Paulsen and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

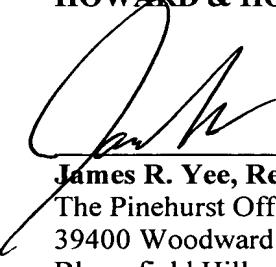
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All of the Examiner's rejections and objections having been successfully traversed and/or made moot, applicants respectfully assert that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be appropriate, please contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any additional fees become required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C.

Respectfully submitted

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.



May 3, 2005
Date

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Attachments:
Attendance Remote Network Interface sheet (1 page)
Form PTO/SB/17 (1 page)
Form PTO/SB/22 (1 page)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment for United States Patent Application Serial Number **10/661,392** filed **September 12, 2003** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **May 3, 2005**.

Melissa Dad.
Melissa S. Dadisman

Patron Signup Remote Network Interface

Overview

The purpose of this Remote Network Interface is to allow the user to add new patrons to the system. The user must have preprinted cards available for the Patrons use. Otherwise, the patron must receive a patron card from the Card Club.

Data Flow

This Remote Network Interface produces an HTML form that accepts the following input from the user

- Last Name** - Last name of patron
- First Name** - First name of patron
- Middle Name** - Middle name of patron
- Card Number** - Card number from preprinted card, or left blank for system generated card
- PIN Number** - Personal Identification Number for patron card
- Address** - Street address of patron's primary residence
- ZIP Code** - ZIP Code of patron's primary residence
- Country** - Country of patron's primary residence
- Room Number** - Patron room number in hotel or blank for no room
- Adult Cards** - Number of cards to create that work both in system and operate room lock
- Child Cards** - Number of cards to create that only operate room lock
- Patron Signature** - Graphical capture of patron's signature

The Remote Network Interface produces HTML response with the following output

The Remote Network Interface response with either a success or a request for missing information

Other Interactions

The Remote Network Interface will multicast out a message to a Smart-Lock server that will create the necessary room keys. This service is optional.

